



## The Medieval Settlement Research Group in 2003

As many readers of *Medieval Archaeology* will be aware this was a particularly sad year for the Group because of the death on 29<sup>th</sup> April of one of its Vice Presidents, John Hurst. This followed an attack in his home village during early March. John's death at this time was made all the more sad because the Group had just celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his co-foundation of one its forerunners, the *Deserted Medieval Village Research Group*, of which he was the first Secretary. An obituary can be found in our most recent *Annual Report*.

The Spring Conference was hosted by the Department of Lifelong Learning at the University of Exeter. About 90 people witnessed seven excellent papers presented with the aid of state of the art facilities and covering many aspects of settlement and agriculture in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. The Sunday field trip to Bodmin Moor gave members and local guests some good exercise as the day's circular walk (made a little longer as some narrow Cornish lanes defeated our coach!) took in the abandoned medieval farmstead of Carkees, the shrunken hamlet of Garrow and traces of extensive field systems, both nearby and on Scribble and Emblance Downs. Oliver Creighton and Peter Herring jointly organised a very successful weekend. A full report will appear in our next *Annual Report*.

A handful of members attended the Whittlewood Project's Open Day for the MSRSG on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Fieldwork in progress was viewed and we were particularly well rewarded at Whittlebury where our visit coincided with excavations in the churchyard and some hot off the computer hard drive geophysics results which revealed the round houses and defences of a previously unknown Iron Age hillfort. We have continued to provide financial support to the Project with a grant of £1500.00 this year.

The AGM was held in December in the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester. Dr. Neil Christie was elected to replace Stephen Coleman as the Group's Secretary. After the AGM a seminar convened as a tribute to John Hurst concentrated on "*The contribution of pottery studies to medieval settlement research*". Paul Blinkhorn discussed early medieval pottery and settlement while John Allan and Stephen Moorhouse reviewed later medieval pottery studies and settlements in the south west and the north and midlands respectively.

Hon. Secretary:

Dr. Neil Christie  
School of Archaeology & Ancient History  
University of Leicester  
Leicester  
LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 2522617

E-mail: [njc10@le.ac.uk](mailto:njc10@le.ac.uk)